Centre in Guwahati, Assam has been set up with a wide range of activities to popularize science among the masses. The Centre for Science Education in North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya serves as a resource centre for science communication activities of the region. These measures can supplement science education to bring out science from classroom activities and will also make it a joyful learning of science. State S & T Councils and science based voluntary organizations of NER are encouraged and supported by Govt. of India for organization of science activities in backward areas of the region which include training of science teachers, interaction with renowned scientists, visit to research laboratories, etc. Children from these states are encouraged to participate in national events including the Children's science Congress of DST, Science Model Making competition of NCERT, Science Talent Discovery Fair of NCSM. etc.

Single window application processing in DoB

1051. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Biotechnology has proposed a single window application processing cell, to be headed by a senior scientist;

(b) whether this would be as part of a new regulatory system for the domestic biotechnology sector; and

(c) if so, what steps are being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Within the existing regulatory system under Rules-1989 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has set up a Single Window Application-Processing cell, headed by its senior scientist to deal with all the applications on the recombinant DNA products and substances. The proforma for submitting applications to Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation

(RCGM) of the DBT has been put on the web site *(www. dbtindia. org.)*.

Employees' dues in SAIL and IISCO

1052. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the statuory dues payable to employees of Steel Authority of India Limited and Indian Iron and Steel Company, separately;

(b) whether IISCO has received any fund from Government in 2001-2002, to meet the above liabilities; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken by Government to liquidate the outstanding dues and mitigate the hardships of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJKISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) There are no statutory dues to employees in any Plant and Units of SAIL. In case of IISCO, Rs.1422.06 lakhs under Gratuity and Rs.2720.01 lakhs under PF is due to be paid as on September 2001.

(b) and (c) No budgetary support has been provided by the Government in 2001-02 to IISCO. IISCO has been referred to BIFR and is incurring cash losses. The dues are being cleared in a phased manner as and when funds are available.

Production of steel by main and secondary producers

†1053. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel producers are categorised into the main producers and the secondary producers;

(b) if so, the steel produced by each of these producers during the last three years; and

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.